

THE WORD OF GOD

TAKE-HOME INSERT

(10th Sunday after Pentecost IRCL – Proper 11)

Collect

Presider: The Lord is with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray together:

God of Freedom,

Your steadfast breath is our beginning and end:

In You is the Strength to move beyond

The fearful trap of judgment;

In You is the Power to break through

The enslavement of condemnation;

In You is the Loving-Kindness that burns away

The chaff of our anxiety and anger –

Opening our souls to rest forever in

The gentle, cool, breeze of Compassion. Amen

A period of silence for reflection follows each lesson and the sermon. Allow your attention to drop in and down and rest upon your breath. When distractions arise – such as thoughts and sounds and smells – simply notice and return to the breath.

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 44:6-8

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

This is what YHWH says – Israel’s Ruler and Redeemer, YHWH Omnipotent: “I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who is like me? Let them declare their proof and set it out before me: let them predict things to come long before they happen, let them announce future events! Have courage! Don’t be afraid! Didn’t I proclaim and foretell this long ago? You are my witnesses! Is there any god apart from me? Is there any other Rock? I know of none!

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86: Lord, You Are Good and Forgiving (Michel Guimont)

Christian Scriptures

The Epistle

Romans 8:12-25

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Community at Rome.

Therefore, we are under an obligation, my sisters and brothers – but not to the flesh or to live according to the flesh. If you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if you live by the Spirit, you will put to death the evil deeds of the body and you will live. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. For the Spirit that God has given you does not enslave you and trap you in fear; instead, through the Spirit God has adopted you as children, and by that Spirit we cry out, “Abba!” God's Spirit joins with our spirit to declare that we are God's children. And if we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing in Christ's suffering and sharing in Christ's glory. Indeed, I consider the sufferings of the present to be nothing compared with the glory that will be revealed in us. All creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God. Creation was subjected to transience and futility, not of its own accord, but because of the One who subjected it – in the hope that creation itself would be freed from its slavery to corruption, and would come to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit – we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn (see hymn board)

We stand as able.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus presented another parable to those gathered: “The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field. While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then made off. When the crop began to mature and yield grain, the weeds became evident as well. The farmer’s workers came and asked, ‘Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where are the weeds coming from?’ The farmer replied, ‘I see an enemy’s hand in this.’ They in turn asked, ‘Do you want us to go out and pull them up?’ ‘No,’ replied the farmer, ‘if you pull up the weeds, you might take the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, then at harvest time I will order the harvesters first to collect the weeds and bundle them up to burn, then to gather the wheat into my barn.’” Then Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. The disciples also came in and said, “Explain the parable about the weeds in the field.” Jesus answered, “The farmer sowing the good seed is the Chosen One, the field is the world, and the good seed, the citizens of the kingdom. The weeds are the followers of the Evil One, and the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world, while the harvesters are the angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned, so it will be at the end of the age. The Chosen One will send the angels who will weed out the kingdom of everything that causes sin and all who act lawlessly. The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. But those who are just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Abba God. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!

Deacon: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

The readings are taken from *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures Vol. I, II, and III* and *The Inclusive New Testament* with © permission from: Priests for Equality/Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206 Hyattsville, MD 20782 301-699-0042. Collect is by Kevin G. Thew Forrester.

20 July 2008

WELCOME to all visitors and guests this morning! After the service, you are invited to the Great Room on the lower level (accessible by stairs or elevator) for coffee and conversation.

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| Presider: | Rise Thew Forrester |
| Preacher: | Judd Spray |
| Deacon: | Larry Shell |
| Organist: | Jan Brodersen |
| First Reader: | Dan Carpenter |
| Second Reader: | Barb Carpenter |
| Prayers of the People: | Vince Reed |
| Chalice Bearers: | Pat Micklow and Mary Sullivan |
| Ushers: | Geoff Smith and Dan Platt |
| Server: | Faith Cole |
| Altar Guild: | Jayne McQuaid and Jean Contois |
| Coffee Hour Hosts: | Barb and Dan Carpenter; Brett and John Bartlett |
| Evening Prayer Officiant: | Mary Sullivan |
| Eucharistic Visitors: | Bill Mudge: Dan and Barb Carpenter |

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

July Food Bank Needs: Juice, any variety

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| Tuesday, 22 st | Morning Meditation | 7:45 am |
| Wednesday, 23 nd | Evening Prayer w/Holy Eucharist | 5:30 pm |
| | Children/Youth Ministry Meeting | 5:30 pm |
| Thursday, 24 rd | Morning Meditation | 7:45 am |
| Sunday, 27 th | Holy Eucharist: 11 Pentecost | 10:30 am |
| | Ministry Support Team meets after the service | |

ALTAR FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar in memory or celebration of a loved one can sign up on the list on the board in the atrium. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Jayne McQuaid at 226-2355.

New Contact Number

As of July 18, Rise has a new cell phone number, 390-0026. And an update on the church email...hopefully, by THIS week we will be up and running with internet service. Many thanks to Geoff Smith for the hours he has spent on this project.

Worship at the Island Sign Up

In addition to our regularly scheduled worship on Sunday, August 3rd, St. Paul's will also participate in our traditional Worship at the Island on that same date. Mid-Summer Worship at the Island involves Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist and other local Christian Communities in Ecumenical Worship amidst the pictorial setting of Presque Isle Park (and the possibility of rain and mosquitoes will be provided at no additional cost). Both services commence at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's will provide ushers, readers and communion servers for the Presque Isle service. So: If you are available to support this ecumenical effort, please note your intentions on the sign-up sheet in the sacristy, or call Vince Reed at 228-7333 or email: vincentreed@gmail.com

Year A 10th Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 11

Forward Day by Day

Copies of the Aug-Oct issue of Forward Day by Day are now available in the kiosk in the atrium.

Semi-Annual Contribution Statements

The semi-annual contribution statements are now available in the church office. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

So Sorry!

Apologies to Jim Sorenson and Jim Jajich! Contrary to the information provided in last week's insert, the two are not interchangeable. While *Jim S.* has a gift for *preaching*, **Jim J.** has a gift for **teaching**. Sorry for the mix up!

Back Pack Project

Request from Sister Ludmilla Gramann

It's already that time of the year! Starting about now, the school supplies will start to go on sale. We are collecting the regular supplies, nothing fancy. Bring your donation to your church. No donation is too small, so give what you can comfortably give – folders, crayons, markers, pencils, erasers, spiral notebooks... You would be surprised at what amounts we receive from all the giving. Many happy children, but probably more so many happy parents or guardians.

Thanks so much, Sister Ludmilla

**There will be a box in the atrium marked "Back Pack Supplies" for donations*

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The Food Bank items for July are: Juice, juice and more juice – any variety. As always, other items are welcomed. Monetary donations can be made by writing "Food Donations" on the memo line of your check or marking the envelope the same when donating cash. Both can be placed in the collection plate on any Sunday. Questions about Hunger Ministry? Call Larry Shell: 360-8214 or email him at larry@shell-family.com.